

INFORMATION REPORT

~~SECRET~~

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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DATE DISTR. 13 MAY 1949

SUBJECT Arms Depots in Brandenburg

NO. OF PAGES 3

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PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF II

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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Excelsior Works

1. In the period 6 December 1948 to 20 February 1949, the following were serviced:

a. 4000-5000 rifles, caliber 7.92 mm;

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b. 400 auto-loading rifles, old model

2. Since February 1949, an unknown number of light machine guns of Czech
origin were serviced. These were mounted on bipods and had long flash
hiders.

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3. On 21 February, approximately 1,000 badly-rusted 2 cm Flak gun barrels were
placed in the acid bath, preparatory to further servicing.

4. On 21 February, 300 machine guns, model 15, were serviced. They were dipped
in a grease bath and then packed in crates, six guns to a crate. Each gun
had one drum magazine. These crates are stored in the despatch room and their
destination is unknown. However, arms which have been treated in the grease
bath have, in the past, invariably gone on a long journey.*

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1882

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5. On 23 February, 53 crates, each containing 8 machine guns, model 81, and 8 spare barrels (caliber 7.9 mm, category 2) were packed after the grease bath treatment. In addition, 150 storage cases (81) (Bezeichnung Fl 203 450) were completed, 50 of them partly filled with spares.
6. A steady stream of [] machine guns, [] caliber 8 mm, year 1914-1916, is arriving at the Excelsior Works. Spares and component parts are often missing, resulting in the rejection of the whole weapon.
7. []
8. The ten people employed in the pistol room daily service some 300 Walther 7.65 mm pistols. Although these pistols are in need of repair, nothing is done apart from giving them an oil bath treatment, packing them in cases, and storing them in the storeroom.
9. Arms are graded in the following categories:
 - a. Category 1 - new weapons ready for use and barrel in perfect condition.
 - b. Category 2 - badly rusted with rust scars and over 10,000 rounds fired through the barrel.
 - c. Category 3 - parts missing or barrel badly distorted.
10. Arms are collected in dumps at the following points:

Brandenburg	Zerbst
Furstenwalde	Neu-Brandenburg
Wittenberg	Köthen

These are collection points for captured weapons, for which Brandenburg is the main collection center. At the head of this center is a general (name unknown) who is in the SMA at Karlshorst and frequently makes inspections.

Optical Workshops

11. This workshop, measuring 40 by 70 meters, contains about ten bays. Besides being a workshop, it also stores optical instruments for all infantry, Luftwaffe (including antiaircraft) and Ari (sic) weapons captured from the Germans. Range finders are estimated to be about 60 in number. Large, but uncounted, quantities of field glasses of all types, lenses, gun sights, and directors are in storage. Instruments are overhauled and repaired and passed by a Russian specialist dressed as a common soldier. Instruments and lenses are packed in cases and stored []

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Ordnance Works

12. This is a collecting point and repair depot for captured German and foreign artillery material, with a labor strength of approximately 120 men. The inspection personnel is Russian, the guards are German police.

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13. All weapons are stripped on arrival and then cannibalized to make complete weapons.

* Comment: arms are very often sent by rail from Brandenburg, ostensibly to Poland, but China is regarded as their real destination. 50X1-HUM
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